

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, the distinguished majority leader had mentioned the Defense authorization bill, and the distinguished chairman of the Armed Services Committee, the senior Senator from South Carolina, is also here on the floor.

Mr. President, I realize this would have to probably be hotlined from both Cloakrooms, but I certainly am willing to agree to a vote at a time certain. But I mention two provisos: First, at some point prior to the vote, and if the vote is going to be tomorrow, at that time tomorrow, that I be recognized for 20 minutes to speak—of course, with equal time on the other side, naturally—to speak on the subject of landmines.

I will do that with the understanding of the distinguished chairman that on the subsequent Defense authorization bill, there not be language on landmines, certainly not the language that I have stated my objection to and have given on the floor to him and to the distinguished Republican leader. I mention that for the sake of our distinguished majority leader, because I know he has to try to put together a schedule. I just want him to know, with the distinguished Senator from South Carolina here on the floor.

Mr. DOLE. I thank the Senator from Vermont, and I thank also the chairman of the committee. That is satisfactory.

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I think that is satisfactory to have a definite time to vote, and the distinguished Senator from Vermont will have 20 minutes before the vote and I will have 20 minutes before the vote to speak on the bill and have a definite time to vote. If we can agree on that time, I suggest maybe 12 o'clock tomorrow, if that suits the distinguished Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. I would leave it to the leaders to set the time. But I certainly would agree to whatever time the two leaders were able to set. I understand there are both Republican and Democratic Senators who wish to speak on it, on the bill. I do not want to preclude that. Certainly, within the normal course of things, my understanding was that the leadership wanted to have a vote sometime tomorrow. I would hope to accommodate whatever that is.

Mr. LOTT. Will the chairman yield?

Mr. THURMOND. Yes.

Mr. LOTT. That seems like a very reasonable proposal. I hope we can get that locked in as soon as possible. Why don't we check with both sides, our leaders, and see if we cannot get that cleared momentarily. We will work on it, and we hope the Senator from Vermont will do the same on his side. Thank you.

Mr. LEAHY. I assure the Senator from Mississippi and the Senator from South Carolina that, with the understanding that I have with the distinguished chairman regarding the issue of landmines, I will be willing to ac-

commodate whatever time the joint leadership wants to have this vote. I ask only that the leadership, in setting that vote, provide 20 minutes each for the distinguished Senator from South Carolina and myself prior to the vote.

Mr. President, I know the Senator from Mississippi has some other scheduling and housekeeping to do. Once he is finished, at some appropriate point, I am going to retain the floor in my own right for a few minutes of morning business.

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, that would give today for those who wish to speak on the bill, for or against it, to make their speeches, and then tomorrow we can have the vote. The leaders can agree on a time tomorrow. Senator LOTT is now representing the leadership on the Republican side, and he can get in touch with the Democratic leadership and agree on a time for the vote. But as I understand it, it will definitely be tomorrow. I ask unanimous consent that it will be tomorrow.

Mr. LOTT. Reserving the right to object, I think we need to have representation from both sides of the aisle before we enter an agreement on unanimous consent. Can I ask the chairman to withhold momentarily and we will check with the leaders?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Will the Senator from South Carolina withdraw that unanimous-consent request?

Mr. THURMOND. If that is the desire of the Senator from Mississippi, I will do that.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I reemphasize to the chairman of the Armed Services Committee that we will be working on both sides of the aisle to see if we cannot get an agreed-to time to have a vote tomorrow on the Defense authorization bill. I think we can get that worked out. I thought the comments of the Senator from Vermont were very helpful. We will work on that in the next few minutes.

Mr. President, if I can clarify the parliamentary circumstances, we have a period of morning business now that will go for how long? Is it for a time certain or for a period of time?

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There will now be a period for the transaction of morning business not to extend beyond the hour of 11:30, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 5 minutes each.

Mr. LOTT. I ask unanimous consent that I have 10 minutes of that morning business period.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

APPRECIATION OF THE SENATE CHAPLAIN

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I want to say, once again, how much this Senator—and I am sure all Senators—appreciates the prayers of our most distinguished Chaplain, who is having a

tremendous impact on this institution. I think maybe the problems we are wrestling with can only be resolved by divine guidance. We thank Dr. Ogilvie for his help, counsel, and prayers in this institution.

MR. PRESIDENT, SIGN THE BILLS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I want to switch to the matter of the appropriations bills and conference reports. Mr. President, the ball is in the President's court. It is in his hands. It seems to be missed in the news media that the Congress has been completing its work and sending bills to the President. He has bills on his desk that would, in fact, guarantee that approximately 621,000 Federal employees could be at work today or tomorrow. We do not need a continuing resolution for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, State, Judiciary offices, the Interior Department, and VA-HUD Departments to be opened and operating.

So I say to the President of the United States, Mr. President, sign the bills. That is all you need to do. Sign the conference reports that you have before you and cut this problem down to almost nothing.

There are two remaining appropriations conference reports that are now ready to move and should also be in the President's hands in the next 2 days or so. That would be the D.C. appropriations conference report. I believe we were able to reach an agreement on Saturday that the House will act on sometime, hopefully today, and the Senate will follow suit. It was not a perfect agreement or solution, but it was one that we should be able to live with. So we should have the D.C. appropriations bill done sometime tomorrow for sure.

We also have broken loose again the foreign operations appropriations bill. We will try to move it through once again, and, hopefully, we will get both of those conference reports on to the President's desk. That will then be five of the remaining appropriations bills that will be with the President, leaving only the Department of Labor, Health, and Human Services appropriations conference report to be acted on.

That resides in this body's hands. We have tried repeatedly, frankly, sometimes on both sides of the aisle, to get this bill up for consideration. But it is being objected to because of some issues that are very small in terms of the big impact of Labor, Health and Human Services. The way it has been held up—listen to this—it is being held up by filibuster on the motion to proceed. The Democratic leader has said that we cannot even proceed to take this bill up. I say to the Senate, let us just go with the regular order, bring up the Labor-HHS appropriations bill, regular order, amendments are in order, the Democrats can offer amendments, Republicans can offer amendments, we will vote and somebody will win and somebody will lose. It will not always